NEWS

GLASTERS GUN FURY

FIVE people were injured in a shooting incident at the Glastonbury festival at the weekend, just hours before a 23-year-old man died of a suspected drug overdose.

The death is the first in the festival's 24-year history. The victim, a Londoner, died in the early hours of Sunday morning.

A post mortem was due to be carried out on Monday (June 27).

Meanwhile, detectives were still questioning a man as The Maker went to press, following a shooting incident at the festival on Saturday night.

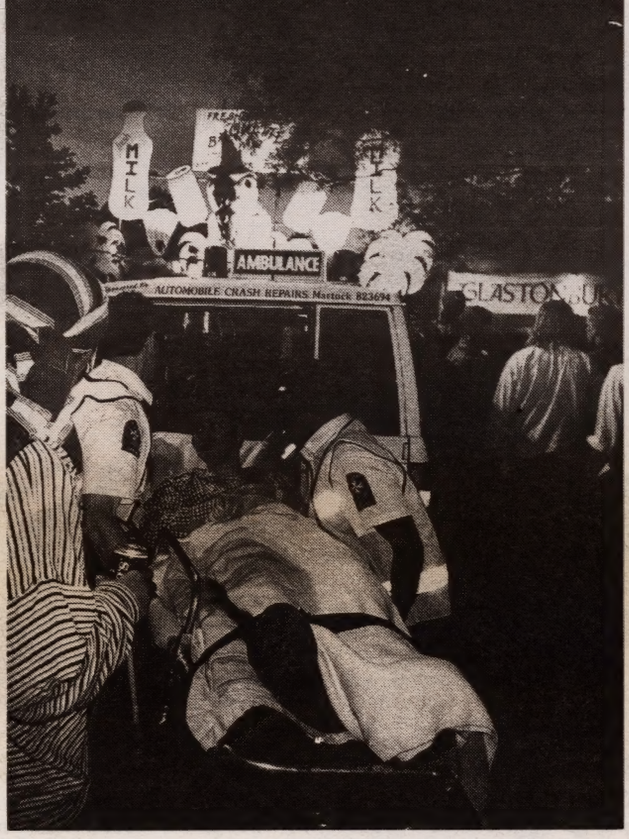
The incident occurred at around 10pm, in the market area about 300 yards south of the main stage, where the pedestrian corridor funnels through a gate.

A gunman, described as a 25 to 30 year old, wearing para-style camouflage clothing and Doc Marten boots, ran amok in the crowd firing a semi-automatic pistol as he chased another man.

Police believe the shootings may have been triggered by a dispute involving rival drug gangs operating at the festival.

It is thought that at least some of the victims were innocent bystanders.

Minutes after the shooting, one site security guard told The Maker that the man doing the shooting had had his face slashed by the other man.



One fan, 26-year-old Anne Breeze, said: "I heard three, maybe four shots and I saw one man fall shouting, 'My leg, my leg.'" Another fan said the gunman "went mad, shooting indiscriminately".

The shootings took place during sets by Björk and Elvis Costello.

Inspector George Church said many festival-goers who saw what happened were left in a state of shock.

"There were a lot of witnesses who were traumatised as a result of the shooting," he said.

Within minutes of the incident, police had cordoned off two areas of the site and began interviewing witnesses in the back of a police van.

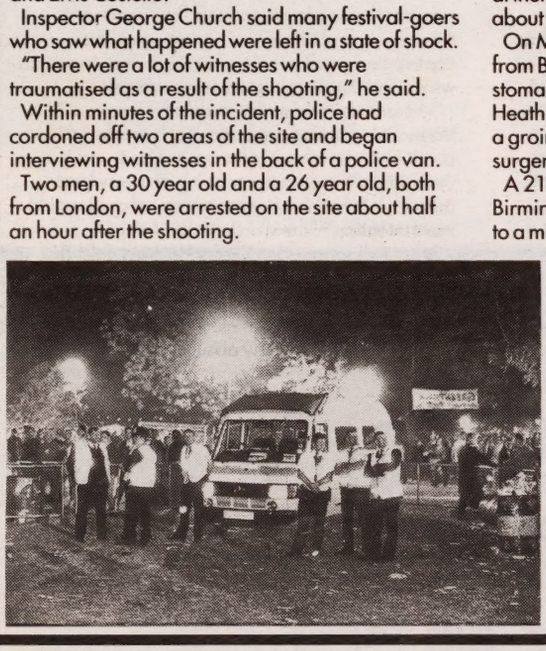
Two men, a 30 year old and a 26 year old, both from London, were arrested on the site about half an hour after the shooting.

The younger man was later released on bail. He will have to report back to the police at a later date. Detectives were still questioning the older man as The Maker went to press on Monday.

Police have not released the names of the victims, at their request, though there are some details about where they are from.

On Monday lunchtime, an 18-year-old man from Birmingham was still in intensive care with stomach wounds. A 44-year-old man from Bexley Heath, south London, was undergoing surgery to a groin injury. His 28-year-old wife was receiving surgery to a bullet wound in her left buttock.

A 21-year-old woman from Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham, had been released after treatment to a minor bullet wound on her forearm.



And a 20-year-old man from Barry, South Glamorgan, was in a "satisfactory" condition after surgery to an injury to his stomach and lower chest.

Glastonbury organiser Michael Eavis said: "I'm terribly disappointed that this has happened. Up to now, it has been the most peaceful festival we've ever had here. It hasn't been a violent event in the past. You get more violence in the local pub on a Saturday night. Glastonbury is not a violent event and never has been."

A total of 656 crimes were reported at the festival and 243 arrests made, including 54 detained on suspicion of dealing drugs and 83 for alleged possession.